Without NAIS

In the spring of 2007, pseudorabies (PRV) was diagnosed in Clark County, Wisconsin, on two farms—the first case in domestic swine since its eradication from the United States in 2005. Wisconsin State law requires premises identification, and statewide, a majority of premises are registered. When the PRV outbreak occurred, officials soon realized that only half of the 62 sites in this particular 5-mile radius were registered. Instead of being able to immediately locate all potentially exposed swine, it took an additional 4 days of phone calls and farm visits to those unregistered premises. Every additional day costs money, both to the producers who were not allowed to move their animals and to the State of Wisconsin that conducted the investigation. Premises registration could have alleviated both of these issues.

Without animal identification and animal tracing, more personnel and more time are required to interview animal owners and veterinarians and to go through health certificates to trace where a suspect animal, and other potentially exposed animals, may have been. Depending on available resources, this process could take several days, weeks, or even months of manual searching to complete a disease investigation. With each day that passes, the disease spreads further, and increased numbers of animals/herds are exposed, directly impacting more producers. Additionally, what if this disease had zoonotic concerns associated with it? The inability to quickly address an emerging animal disease can have negative economic and domestic/international trade implications for the livestock industry and governments and potentially impact public health. NAIS will ensure that animal disease investigation efforts are as efficient, comprehensive, and accurate as possible.

